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1999P07769US01; 60,426-096

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of: Quail et al. Art Unit: 3661
Serial No.: 09/654,417 Examiner: To, T.
Filed: September 1, 2000
For: CONTROLLER FOR OCCUPANT RESTRAINT SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due of May 24, 2004, Applicant makes the following comments with regard to the Examiner's statement of reasons of allowance.

The examiner provided the following statement of reasons of allowance:

None of the references, either alone or combination, discloses or fairly suggests a system and method for controlling an occupant restraint system including at least a seat belt assembly and an airbag assembly comprising at least one modifier sensor that generates a modifier signal representative of either a positive condition to enable an occupant restrain system or a negative condition to disable the occupant restraint system, said modifier signal disabling at least one of an airbag control or a seat belt control as soon as at least one negative condition is identified and not disabling said airbag control or said seat belt control if all predetermined conditions are positive conditions; and said occupant restraint system comprises a plurality of collision sensors including a severity sensor for generating a severity signal indicating collision characteristics occurring at the time of or just after collision and a pre-collision sensor for generating a pre-collision signal indicating vehicle characteristics occurring before collision; and a processing unit for receiving multiple input signals comprised of said occupant presence, child seat, seat belt, occupant weight, occupant position, severity, and pre-collision signals and for generating multiple output signals including a multi-stage inflation control signal for controlling the profile of said airbag.

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The subject application includes several independent claims and the Examiner has indicated several features (see above) that are not shown in the prior art. The list of the examiner's patentable features includes features from each of the independent claims, however, not all of these features are found in each of the independent claims. In other words, every allowed independent claim includes at least one of the examiner's patentable features but does not necessarily include all of the examiner's patentable features.

For example, independent claim 1 is directed toward an occupant restraint system that includes "at least one modifier sensor that generates a modifier signal representative of either a positive condition to enable an occupant restraint system having at least an airbag assembly and a seat belt assembly or a negative condition to disable the occupant restraint system, said modifier signal disabling at least one of an airbag control or a seat belt control as soon as at least one negative condition is identified and not disabling said airbag control or said seat belt control if all predetermined conditions are positive conditions . . . [and] a collision sensor assembly that generates a collision signal representing vehicle collision characteristics . . ."

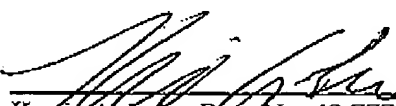
Thus, while claim 1 does include the feature of at least one modifier sensor that generates a modifier signal as described above; claim 1 does not include the feature of "a plurality of collision sensors including a severity sensor for generating a severity signal indicating collision characteristics occurring at the time of or just after collision and a pre-collision sensor for generating a pre-collision signal indicating vehicle characteristics occurring before collision." Instead, claim 1 recites "a collision sensor assembly that generates a collision signal representing vehicle collision characteristics."

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The prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the invention as recited in independent claims 1, 15, and 18. Applicant respectfully requests that Applicant's comments with regard to the Examiner's reasons for allowance be entered. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,


Kerrie A. Laba, Reg. No. 42,777
Carlson, Gaskey & Olds
400 W. Maple Road, Ste. 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: June 9, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States patent and Trademark Office, fax number (703) 872-9306, on June 9, 2004.


Laura Combs

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